

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Original) An external patch comprising a backing and an adhesive layer laminated onto the backing, the adhesive layer containing as essential components a 5 to 50 wt% styrene-isoprene-styrene block copolymer (SIS), a 20 to 70 wt% adhesive resin, a 10 to 60 wt% softener, and a 1 to 20 wt% polyvinylpyrrolidone, along with estrogen and/or progestogen as active ingredients.
2. (Original) The patch according to claim 1, wherein the estrogen is 17- $\beta$ -estradiol.
3. (Original) The patch according to claim 1, wherein the progestogen is norethisterone acetate.
4. (Original) The patch according to claim 1, wherein the backing is a laminate comprising a 0.1 to 20  $\mu$ m thick polyethylene terephthalate film and a 1 to 200  $\mu$ m thick flexible polymer film, nonwoven fabric or woven fabric.
5. (Currently amended) An external patch comprising a backing and an adhesive layer laminated onto the backing, the adhesive layer comprising
  - a 5 to 50 wt% styrene-isoprene-styrene block copolymer (SIS);
  - a 20 to 70 wt% rosin-based adhesive resin;
  - a 10 to 60 wt% softener;
  - a 1 to 20 wt% polyvinylpyrrolidone; and
  - an active ingredient selected from the group consisting of estrogen, progestogen or a combination of estrogen and progestogen.

6. (Previously presented) The patch according to claim 5, wherein the estrogen is 17- $\beta$ -estradiol.

7. (Previously presented) The patch according to claim 5, wherein the progestogen is norethisterone acetate.

8. (Previously presented) The patch according to claim 5, wherein the backing is a laminate comprising a 0.1 to 20  $\mu$ m thick polyethylene terephthalate film and a 1 to 200  $\mu$ m thick flexible polymer film, nonwoven fabric or woven fabric.

9. (Currently amended) An external patch comprising a backing and an adhesive layer laminated onto the backing, the adhesive layer being free from any alcohol and comprising

a 10 to 30 wt% styrene-isoprene-styrene block copolymer (SIS);

a 40 to 50 wt% adhesive resin;

a 20 to 40 wt% softener;

a 2 to 10 wt% polyvinylpyrrolidone; and

1 to 3 wt% estrogen or 2 to 5 wt% progestogen.

10. (Previously presented) The patch according to claim 9, wherein the estrogen is 17- $\beta$ -estradiol.

11. (Previously presented) The patch according to claim 9, wherein the progestogen is norethisterone acetate.

12. (Previously presented) The patch according to claim 9, wherein the backing is a laminate comprising a 0.1 to 20  $\mu$ m thick polyethylene terephthalate film and a 1 to 200  $\mu$ m thick flexible polymer film, nonwoven fabric or woven fabric.